

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 4 with the following paragraph:

In a second aspect the invention provides autoantibodies and reagents comprising said autoantibodies for use in the assay, which specifically recognise at least one epitope of a mammalian cancer-associated marker protein. Such autoantibodies may be isolated from the blood or peripheral blood ~~monocytes~~ mononucleocytes of such a mammal, preferably a human. Alternatively, the autoantibodies can be produced by immortalised B lymphocytes and directed to an antigen originated in the mammal itself. The reagents comprising autoantibodies according to this aspect of the invention are particularly suitable for use in the detection of mammalian cancer-associated marker proteins in body fluids. Preferred autoantibodies to use in the assay include those against cancer-associated forms of the glycoprotein MUC1 (Batra, SK. et al. (1992) Int J. Pancreatol. **12**: 271-283), the signal transduction/ cell cycle regulatory protein c-myc (Blackwood, E.M. et al. (1994) Molecular Biology of the Cell **5**: 597-609), p53 (Matleashewski, G. et al. (1984) EMBO J. **3**: 3257-3262), c-erbB2 (Dsouza, B. et al. (1993) Oncogene **8**: 1797-1806) and Ras (Gnudi, L. et al. (1997) Mol. Endocrinol. **11**: 67-76).